Dear Sir/Madam:

Attached for your review and comment is a draft policy regarding the granting of explicit State Implementation Plan (SIP) credits for voluntary stationary source emission reduction programs. We believe that voluntary programs have the potential to provide, in a cost-effective manner, emission reductions needed for progress toward attainment and maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

As you are probably aware, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued guidance in October 1997 regarding incorporating voluntary mobile source emission reduction measures into SIPs. The attached draft stationary source voluntary measures policy is built on many of the concepts applied in the mobile source policy, but is also separate and distinct from the mobile source voluntary measures policy. It does not alter in any way the mobile source voluntary measures program.

We request your comments on any aspect of the draft policy, including where it needs to be clarified and any additional information needed to make it more effective. However, we are particularly interested in your comments on the following policy elements:

<u>Limitation on the Percentage of Total Emission Reductions Eligible to Be Obtained from Stationary Source Voluntary Measures (the "Cap")</u>

The draft policy would cap the SIP credits allowed for stationary source voluntary measures at 3% of the total emission reductions needed for Rate of Progress (ROP), Reasonable Further Progress (RFP), attainment demonstration or maintenance requirements. As an example, if an area needs reductions of 200 tons per day (tpd) of NOx and 100 tpd of VOC in order to demonstrate attainment with the 1-hour ozone air quality standard, then SIP credits could be granted for stationary source voluntary measures that result in up to 6 tpd of NOx emission reductions and 3 tpd of VOC emission reductions. Similarly, if an area needed a VOC reduction of 50 tpd to satisfy a reasonable further progress requirement then SIP credits could be allowed for up to 1.5 tpd of VOC reductions resulting from stationary source voluntary measures.

The mobile source voluntary measures program also applies a 3% cap to SIP credit for mobile source voluntary measures. The stationary source voluntary measures cap would be separate and distinct from the mobile source cap. If each program's cap was to be fully used, an area could have 6% of its requirements met by voluntary measures.

We are interested in receiving comments on the size of the cap - whether commenters believe the cap is insufficient to meet potential demand, or if it is too large given the untested nature of this program. We are also interested in comments on how a cap could be applied to a maintenance program. Since these areas are already in attainment, there is no target of emission reductions that the cap can be applied to. Is a cap appropriate for maintenance plans? If so, how should it be applied?

Some Stationary Sources are Excluded from the Policy

Where nonattainment problems are strongly affected by one source or a small group of sources, the draft policy would exclude those sources from participating in the voluntary measures program. In such cases, we believe that emission reductions for such sources should be directly enforceable against the source or sources. The types of SIPs where this is most likely to occur are Lead and SO2 nonattainment areas, but could also occur in certain PM and CO areas as well. We would not envision this exclusion being used in an ozone SIP where many large, small and mobile sources contribute to the problem. We are interested in comments as to whether this approach is appropriate and whether additional guidance is necessary to effectively implement this aspect of the policy.

A related series of questions is whether any sources which are currently regulated under one or more titles of the CAA should be allowed to participate in this voluntary measures policy and, if so, what types of emission points could be covered under voluntary programs. For example, if an emission point at a source is currently regulated, but the facility decides to change its operations to install a new technology that either creates less pollution or achieves a much higher emission reduction control efficiency than the current technology being used, should it be allowed to commit the delta in emissions as a voluntary, i.e. not enforceable, measure? Should sources only be allowed to apply voluntary measures to emission points that are not currently regulated?

Whether Episodic Controls Can be Allowed for Stationary Source Voluntary Measures

Section 123 of the Clean Air Act prohibits the use of dispersion techniques to affect SIP emission limitations for stationary sources. The Act defines dispersion techniques to include intermittent or supplemental control of air pollutants varying with atmospheric conditions. Because of this limitation, we would preclude the use of episodic activities for stationary sources under the voluntary measures program. Episodic programs include activities such as Ozone Action Day program requirements which are intermittent and only apply in times of high ozone conditions. This prohibition would apply to intermittent programs aimed at traditional stationary sources, but does not apply to retail or consumer type actions (e.g., no hair spray days or no burn days) that do not meet the definition of stationary sources as applied to section 123. We are interested in comments on the impact of this prohibition and on whether there are appropriate ways to increase the use of episodic controls without conflicting with the policies underlying the CAA section 123 prohibition.

Time Periods for Program Evaluation and Remedying of Shortfalls

The purpose of this guidance is to discuss how EPA intends to allow SIP credit for voluntary actions. Because we have very little experience with this type of program, in implementing it we will need to determine if the emission reductions that are credited are actually occurring. This requires a program evaluation by the State to validate the credits. The evaluation needs to be done as quickly as possible.

The draft policy would allow a State up to 18 months to perform the initial evaluation of the effectiveness of voluntary measures. This is based on running the program for a year with an additional six months to do the analysis of the program. In addition, if a State finds that there is a shortfall between predicted and actual emission reductions, the State would need to correct the shortfall as quickly as possible (within a year if no State rulemaking is required or 2 years if rulemaking is required). We are interested in comments regarding whether this time frame to verify and correct shortfalls is too long to leave unsubstantiated credits in the SIP or too short to credibly accomplish these activities.

Who should we target the policy to?

We are also asking comment on the types of operations (industry, business or consumer) that may be interested in using this policy. Who should this policy be targeted to? Major sources? Area sources? Consumers? Who would be most likely to participate or not participate. For instance, since all credits generated under the voluntary measures program would go to the State to reduce any SIP demonstration needs, would a major source even be likely to participate in the voluntary measures program since it could not use any credits generated (e.g., for new source review offsets or trading purposes)? How should this program be advertised? How can it be made more attractive?

Thank you for your review of this draft policy. Please provide your comments to Jack Edwardson, Associate Director, Air Quality Strategies and Standards Division, of my staff by July 14, 2000. Jack's address is US EPA, Mail Drop 15, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711. His e-mail address is edwardson.jack@epa.gov and his telephone number is 919-541-4003. Thank you for your assistance in helping us to prepare guidance that will assist States in developing cost-effective programs to attain and maintain the NAAQS.

Sincerely,

John S. Seitz
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Enclosure

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